United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1470
2 September 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General meets in Geneva with mediators Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen to discuss interruption of Bosnian peace talks and its implications, including effect on humanitarian assistance.

+ Secretary-General, in report on ONUMOZ, urges Mozambican parties to move ahead with peace process; notes agreement on October 1994 deadline for elections; says financial constraints on United Nations preclude delay.

+ Special Representative for Angola says UNAVEM II's humanitarian programme will not be disrupted despite recent attack on aid convoy; visits neighbouring countries to seek support for resumption of peace talks between Government and UNITA.

+ Danish Brigadier-General appointed as Chief Military Observer of UNOMIG.

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Following the break last night in the Bosnia and Herzegovina peace talks, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today in Geneva with Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, who have been presiding over the talks. Also taking part in the meeting was Martti Ahtissari, Special Advisor to the Conference and Chairman of the Working Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A United Nations spokesman described the meeting as constructive. The participants explored the implications of the interruption in the talks, including its impact on humanitarian assistance. They also discussed the report on the matter which the Secretary-General will be sending to the Security Council, including the Co-Chairmen's report on the recent round of negotiations.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

Mr. Stoltenberg and Lord Owen have informed the parties to the talks that they remain at their disposal to assist in the search for peace, the spokesman said. The talks broke down last night over disagreements between the three parties regarding the distribution of territory within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Recent developments in the Mozambican peace process were encouraging, but there was a pressing need for the two major parties to move ahead with its full implementation, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a report on the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) dated 30 August. The demands facing the Organization and its critical financial constraints precluded any further delay, the Secretary-General said, and the international community was unlikely to accept attempts to obtain more concessions. He urged the Government and the opposition Resistência Nacional Moçambicana (RENAMO) not to lose the momentum of the constructive progress achieved so far.

The Secretary-General particularly welcomed the recent meeting in Maputo between President Joaquim Chissano and RENAMO leader Afonso Dhlakama, and their announced intention to meet regularly. He said that though a revised schedule for holding elections had not been formally approved, the Government had agreed to the proposed October 1994 deadline and RENAMO had implicitly agreed to it. He said the United Nations would continue to support and assist all parties and the people of Mozambique to achieve lasting peace and democracy in their country.

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The United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) will continue with its humanitarian assistance programme notwithstanding last week's attack on one of its convoys in Caimbambo in which three personnel were killed and three trucks destroyed. In a statement issued today, Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye said that the United Nations would not be deterred by such acts, which were aimed at bringing about the suspension of humanitarian relief.

Mr. Beye today visited Sao Tome and Principe as part of his effort to obtain the support of Angola's neighbouring countries for the resumption of peace talks between the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). He recently paid similar visits to Namibia, Zaire, Zimbabwe and Gabon with a view to reactivating the peace process within the framework of the Bicesse Accords and relevant Security Council resolutions.

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Brigadier-General John Hvidegaard, a Danish national, has been appointed by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali as Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG). The Mission was established by the Security Council last week to verify compliance with the Cease-fire Agreement of 27 July between the Republic of Georgia and forces in Abkhazia. The Mission, which will consist of up to 88 military observers and a minimal support staff, will investigate reports of violations and attempt to resolve such incidents with the parties involved.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1471
3 September 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Co-Chairmen of Yugoslavia Conference, in report to Secretary-General, say package presented on 20 August should be "kept on the table" at Bosnia and Herzegovina peace talks; warn that conflict could intensify and expand, threatening humanitarian aid to civilians.

+ Secretary-General, in report on ONUSAL, says FMLN has been effectively dismantled and former combatants reintegrated into civil and political life in El Salvador.

+ United Nations owed $1.9 billion by Member States, including $1.1 billion for peace-keeping operations; only 10 States, out of total membership of 184, have paid dues in full.

+ African Seminar and NGO Symposium on Palestine describes developments in Israeli-Palestinian peace process as first step towards just and comprehensive peace based on Security Council resolutions.

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In the absence of any alternative, the "peace package" and associated agreements presented to the three Bosnian parties in Geneva on 20 August should be kept on the table, according to the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. In a report to the Secretary-General dated 1 September, Co-Chairmen Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen said the parties had a choice between a negotiated peace and a continuation of the war, which could even intensify and expand. If the war were to persist into the winter, it might be impossible to provide humanitarian aid to the civilian population in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The consequences, they said, could be devastating.

The Co-Chairmen pointed out that the personnel of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian workers were already facing unacceptable security risks. They said there was a risk that those organizations might not be able to continue their activities in a deteriorating situation.

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For information media—not an official record

The package presented on 20 August contained constitutional papers covering issues that had already been resolved and a map reflecting previous discussions. The peace talks resumed in Geneva last Tuesday, but broke down the following day because the parties could not agree on how to delineate a divided Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that, by all available indications, the military structure of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) has now been effectively dismantled. In a report on the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) dated 30 August, the Secretary-General said the FMLN's former combatants had been reintegrated, within a framework of full legality, into the civil, institutional and political life of the country, as mandated in the Peace Accords for El Salvador. The overall process of verification and destruction of FMLN weapons and equipment was finally completed on 18 August.

The Secretary-General said that apprehensions raised by the discovery of large quantities of undeclared weapons still in FMLN possession now seemed to have been surmounted. Given the circumstances surrounding the bitter 12-year conflict in El Salvador, weapons and war-related matériel were likely to remain for some time in the hands of individuals or groups, including criminal ones. But, he said, the facts reported had brought into sharp focus the public's condemnation of armed groups, and the futility of arms as a viable means to achieve political aims.

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As of today, the United Nations is owed a total of $1.9 billion by Member States, of which $1.1 billion is owed for peace-keeping operations, according to a United Nations spokesman. Only 10 States, out of a total membership of 184, had paid their dues in full. The spokesman said recent receipts would tide the Organization over until the end of September, but warned that a crisis had not been averted.

Last week, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali announced that the servicing of conferences and meetings and the production of documents and records would be limited in order to cut costs. He said that the number of temporary staff hired for the General Assembly would be cut, and that the hiring of consultants and official travel by staff members would be curtailed.

* * *

The African Seminar and NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine this morning described the recent developments in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process as a first step towards a just and comprehensive peace based on the Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). In joint conclusions and recommendations issued as it concluded its week-long meeting Dakar, it said courage and leadership would be crucial in the next phase of the peace process.

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The meeting, organized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, reaffirmed that peace should be pursued through the realization of Palestinians' right to self-determination. Palestinians were urged to study the experience of the oppressed people of South Africa, whose struggle paralleled their own.

The revival of the Palestinian economy and its independent development were described as essential underpinnings of the building of a Palestinian state. The meeting also called for new coordination between donor organizations, the United Nations System and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1472
7 September 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General deplores incident in Mogadishu on Sunday in which seven Nigerian soldiers serving with UNOSOM II were ambushed and killed; Quick Reaction Force soldiers conduct cordon-and-search operation early this morning of suspected Aideed-controlled area.

+ Secretary-General proposes that Security Council define required security and safety conditions when establishing peace-keeping operations; suggests that General Assembly adopt declaration to heighten international commitment to safety of United Nations personnel.

+ Fifth Committee recommends $256 million appropriation for UNOSOM II from 1 May to 31 October 1993 and up to $200 million for UNPROFOR from 1 July to 30 September; approves draft resolution on review to improve efficiency of budgetary aspects of peace-keeping operations.

+ UNHCR signs agreement providing access to all refugees in South Africa; to assist in voluntary repatriation of 300,000 Mozambican refugees beginning next year.

+ DPI's forty-sixth annual Conference for NGOs to begin tomorrow at Headquarters on theme of "Social Development: A New Definition for Security".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has deplored the incident on Sunday in which seven Nigerian soldiers serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) were ambushed and killed in Mogadishu. Ten other members of the contingent were wounded. They had been in the process of taking over a checkpoint from the Italian contingent when they came under attack.

In a statement issued today, the Secretary-General said UNOSOM II had been successful in maintaining a relatively secure environment throughout

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For information media--not an official record

Somalia, but that this had proved difficult in south Mogadishu, where one faction was determined to frustrate the efforts of the international community and continued "to carry out deliberate and unprovoked acts of violence".

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Jonathan Howe, said on Sunday that the attackers were clearly supporters of General Mohammed Farah Aideed and his Somali National Alliance (SNA). The change-over between the two units, planned and organized by the Italian contingent, had been well known to the people in the area and the attack had been "unprovoked and premeditated".

The UNOSOM II military spokesman announced today that soldiers from the United States Quick Reaction Force augmenting UNOSOM II conducted a cordon-and-search operation early this morning of a suspected Aideed faction command and control compound. They searched about 12 buildings, confiscated some small weapons and detained 17 of the two dozen Somali militia who were there. There were several exchanges of small-arms fire. Two Aideed militia and two United States soldiers were wounded. There were no civilian casualties and no reports of collateral damage.

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In a report on the protection of United Nations forces and personnel, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has suggested that when the Security Council sets up a new peace-keeping operation, it define the security conditions under which the operation is to be deployed. In the report, dated 27 August, the Secretary-General proposed the following measures: confirmation that the Government of the country hosting an operation is obliged to ensure the safety of United Nations personnel; clarification that the arrangements made also apply to contractors and personnel of non-governmental organizations working with the operation; and reaffirmation that the use of force against United Nations personnel will be considered interference with Security Council responsibilities.

Futhermore, the Secretary-General suggested that the General Assembly adopt a declaration drawing attention to the critical importance of security and safety of United Nations forces and personnel, to strengthen international awareness and commitment in that regard.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has approved a draft resolution by which the General Assembly would appropriate some $256 million for the UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) from 1 May to 31 October 1993. In a series of actions taken without a vote on Friday, the Committee also recommended that the Assembly commit up to $200 million for United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) operations from 1 July to 30 September. By that resolution, the Assembly would also appropriate $55 million for additional start-up requirements for the enlargement of the Force in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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In addition, the Fifth Committee took action on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ), the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). The Committee also approved a draft resolution by which the budgetary aspects of of peace-keeping operations would be reviewed urgently to improve efficiency.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Government of South Africa yesterday signed an agreement allowing the UNHCR to protect and assist all refugees in that country. Since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in 1991, UNHCR's role in South Africa had been restricted to the repatriation of South African refugees, and some 300,000 Mozambican refugees will be among the first to benefit from the new agreement.

UNHCR has been negotiating to gain access to all refugees in South Africa since 1986, especially to the Mozambicans who represent the majority of the refugee population there. The signing of a peace agreement in Mozambique in October 1992 has made possible the return of more than 1.5 million Mozambican refugees from neighbouring countries. The operation will take at least three years and cost $200 million, of which $12 million will be allocated to the voluntary repatriation of refugees in South Africa, which is expected to begin next year. South Africa also hosts an undetermined number of refugees from other countries in the region and other parts of the world.

* * *

More than 1,000 representatives from 38 countries are expected to attend the forty-sixth annual Conference of the Department of Public Information (DPI) for Non-Governmental Organizations, to be held at Headquarters from tomorrow through Thursday. Among the issues they will discuss are social integration, the alleviation of poverty and productive employment.

The theme of the Conference is "Social Development: A New Definition for Security". Those scheduled to speak include Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and DPI Assistant-Secretary-General Marco Vianello-Chiodo. The Conference will also hear a taped address by Juan Somavia, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations. The Conference will bring together representatives of professional and business associations, trade unions, religious, youth and women's organizations and other voluntary groups from around the world.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1473
8 September 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, addressing DPI/NGO Conference, urges NGOs to help forge new, stronger bond of cooperation with United Nations; calls for commitment to social development with goal of redressing deprivation.

+ President Alija Izetbegovic, after briefing Security Council on situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, says he is ready to resume peace talks in Geneva; awaits initiative from Co-Chairmen of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia.

+ Somali Chargé d'affaires, in letter to Security Council, appeals to Member States to maintain support for UNOSOM II; says criticisms of Operation are "baseless and self-defeating".

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today urged non-governmental organizations to help forge a new and stronger bond of cooperation with the United Nations. Addressing the opening session of the forty-sixth Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations, he called for a commitment to "the great social development challenge", which was emerging as one of the most pressing issues as the next century approached.

The object of social development was to redress deprivation, the Secretary-General stressed. In moral terms, it reflected a shared destiny and common humanity; in practical terms, it was indispensable for lasting peace and economic progress. The challenge of United Nations-NGO cooperation was to employ collective efforts and resources to the best advantage, he said. There were two issues of particular significance for the future of that relationship: the first was the contribution that non-governmental organizations could make to setting international standards of conduct, in social development, human rights, the environment and other areas; the second was the growing relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations in assisting national reconstruction after civil war and political upheaval.

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For information media--not an official record

The NGO/DPI Conference, which ends on Thursday, brings together representatives of professional and business associations, trade unions, religious, youth and women's organizations and many other voluntary groups from all over the world.

* * *

President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina today briefed the Security Council on the situation in his country. Answering questions from the press after the informal meeting, he said that he was ready to resume the peace talks in Geneva, which were halted last Wednesday due to disagreements on the division of territory between the parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Izetbegovic said that he was waiting for an initiative to restart the talks from the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg. His delegation had defined its minimum requirements on 1 September and would continue to ask for those minimums, he stated.

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The Chargé d'affaires of Somalia's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, while expressing her gratitude for the efforts to restore peace in her country and her regret at the loss of peace-keepers' lives there, has appealed to Member States to continue their support for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). In a letter to the Security Council dated 7 September, Fatun Hassan expressed dismay at criticisms of UNOSOM II, and emphasized its success in drastically reducing the starvation and inter-clan warfare that cost hundreds of lives each day last year.

The violence, the letter said, had been limited to a pocket in the south of Mogadishu, people had been enabled to start producing their own food and progress was being made in the creation of civil structures. Given those facts, criticisms of United Nations efforts in Somalia were "baseless and self-defeating". The letter stressed the importance of continuing the disarmament effort, and the need for the international community to renew its moral, material and political support for UNOSOM II. (document S/26412)

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1474
9 September 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General begins series of meetings with 14-member informal contact group on Somalia; participants emphasize importance of disarmament of all Somali factions as prerequisite for continuation of humanitarian relief programme.

+ To support Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, and in response to requests from PLO leader and Israeli Foreign Minister, Secretary-General sets up high-level Task Force to facilitate economic and social development of Gaza Strip and Jericho.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has begun a series of meetings with an informal contact group on Somalia, comprising the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the United States and Zimbabwe. A United Nations spokesman said today that the meetings would allow for an informal exchange of views with States which have contributed troops to the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) or which are interested in developments in the country.

Addressing the group yesterday, the Secretary-General noted that while much attention had been focused on the security situation in southern Mogadishu, the Somali people were working hard throughout the country to restore order to their lives. The United Nations and various agencies and organizations were helping them in that effort. In the political sphere, on the basis of the Agreements reached by the Somali parties in Addis Ababa, the Organization was helping in the establishment of district and regional councils. Humanitarian progress had also been made; starvation had been largely eradicated and the death-rate from preventable diseases had been significantly reduced, he said.

The meeting had emphasized the importance of continuing the process of disarmament of all Somali factions as a prerequisite for the continued provision of humanitarian assistance and the return of refugees, according to the spokesman.

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For information media--not an official record

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To support the momentum of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali last night established a high-level Task Force whose focus will be the economic and social development of the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the two areas designated for Palestinian self-rule in the draft agreement between Israel and the PLO. According to a statement issued today, the Secretary-General had received requests for such a move from Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and Shimon Peres, Foreign Minister of Israel.

The Task Force's priorities will be to integrate the United Nations approach to development in these areas and coordinate it with other institutions, agencies and non-governmental organizations involved in on-going projects, to avoid duplication of efforts. It will also seek to mobilize international financial support for the process. The Task Force, which begins work immediately, will prepare proposals for the Secretary-General before the General Assembly begins its upcoming session.

The members of the Task Force include the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and the Secretary-General's Special Political Advisor on the region.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1475
10 September 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, welcomes Arusha Peace Agreement concluded by Government of Rwanda and Rwandese Patriotic Front on 4 August and Secretary-General's decision to send mission to that country.

+ Secretary-General urges world community to support agreement on mutual recognition reached by Israel and PLO; says United Nations is ready to help parties implement peace process.

+ Secretary-General deplores attack on UNOSOM II peace-keepers in Mogadishu yesterday; says that when women and children are used as human shields, responsibility for civilian casualties lies with those who carry out attacks.

+ Special Committee against Apartheid says agreement reached in South Africa's multi-party negotiations on creation of Transitional Executive Council is historic milestone in democratization of country.

+ Secretary-General, in meeting with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, stresses that negotiations on former Yugoslavia should resume as soon as possible.

+ Final report of United States Commission on improving effectiveness of United Nations issued today; Secretary-General welcomes "thoughtful and thought-provoking analysis".

* * *

The Security Council today welcomed the Peace Agreement concluded by the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) at Arusha on 4 August. In a statement read out by its President, Adolfo Raul Taylhardat (Venezuela), the Council said it was aware that the parties hoped for international assistance in implementing the Agreement, and took note of the importance they had attached to today, as the date for the establishment of transitional institutions.

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For information media--not an official record

The Council welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to send a reconnaissance mission to Rwanda, and said it hoped to have his report based on the mission's recommendations in the next few days, in order to consider how the United Nations could help facilitate implementation of the Agreement.

The Council urged the Rwandese Government and the RPF to continue to honour the Arusha Agreement in accordance with their commitments. It also urged the parties to continue to cooperate with the Neutral Military Observer Group, whose mandate the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had decided to extend on an interim basis.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today warmly welcomed the agreement on mutual recognition reached by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General urged the world community to give its wholehearted support to the agreement, saying that the conflict which had preceded it had caused the most serious concern with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Secretary-General said the United Nations was ready to assist the parties as they worked towards a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

* * *

United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) forces were attacked in Mogadishu yesterday for the second time in a week. One Pakistani peace-keeper was killed and two were wounded in the exchange of fire that followed the attack. Two American soldiers were also injured. A United Nations spokesman said it had been impossible to ascertain the number of Somali casualties.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today deplored the incident, and said all indications pointed to the attack being pre-meditated and highly coordinated, involving well over a hundred militiamen who used women and children as human shields. Under those circumstances, responsibility for civilian casualties lay with those who carried out the attack, he stressed.

The Secretary-General again emphasized the importance of a secure environment for UNOSOM II's essential humanitarian and political work. He underlined that the process of disarmament of all Somali factions would continue, despite the difficulties.

* * *

The Special Committee against Apartheid today welcomed the "milestone" agreement reached this week in South Africa's multi-party negotiations allowing for the establishment of a Transitional Executive Council. Committee Chairman Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria) said the agreement was the first step in the transformation of South Africa into a new democratic society. For the first time, a non-racial body would share in governmental decision-making before the country's first "one person, one vote" elections.

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The Chairman said this week's success was testimony to the spirit of compromise and broad agreement that had taken root in the multi-party talks. He applauded the persistence of the negotiators and appealed to the political leaders who had suspended their parties' participation in the talks to return to them.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met yesterday with President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and stressed that negotiations on the former Yugoslavia should resume as soon as possible, according to a United Nations spokesman. Peace talks in Geneva broke down last week because the parties could not agree on the territorial division of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Secretary-General explained to President Izetbegovic the procedure for first use of air power in support of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), and mentioned an exercise that had taken place to test the authorization procedure, the spokesman said. Mr. Boutros-Ghali would brief Special Representative Thorvald Stoltenberg on his meeting with President Izetbegovic, as part of continuing consultations between New York and Zagreb.

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The final report of the United States Commission on improving the effectiveness of the United Nations was issued today. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali welcomed the report, entitled "Defining Purpose: The United Nations and the Health of Nations", and said it presented a thoughtful and thought-provoking analysis of the United Nations and an evaluation of the role of the United States in the Organization.

He said the Secretariat commended the work of the 16-member Commission, in particular that of its Co-Chairman, Representative James A. Leach, whose efforts led to the creation of the Commission. Mr. Leach's introduction, he said, reflected a view of the potential of the United Nations to become a truly effective instrument for the multilateral diplomacy necessary to meet global challenges.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1476
13 September 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General attends signing of Israel/PLO Peace Agreement in Washington D.C.; met on Friday with Permanent Observer of Palestine to United Nations who delivered message from PLO Chairman stressing United Nations role in implementation of agreement.

+ Security Council urges Government of Mozambique and RENAMO to ensure that momentum towards implementing General Peace Agreement is maintained; encourages parties to continue direct talks.

+ Liberia peace process poses special opportunity for United Nations, Secretary-General says in report to Security Council; proposed Observer Mission would be first United Nations peace-keeping operation undertaken in cooperation with mission set up by another organization.

+ Special Envoy for Georgia defers Geneva peace negotiations until later this month because of problems with application of cease-fire Agreement signed by Republic of Georgia and forces in Abkhazia on 27 July.

+ Three United States Quick Reaction Force soldiers injured in attack by General Aideed's militia near UNOSOM II headquarters in Mogadishu.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today attended the signing by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) of a Peace Agreement in Washington D.C. The Secretary-General also attended a luncheon for dignitaries attending the ceremony, before returning to New York.

On Friday, the Secretary-General received the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, Nasser Al-Kidwa, who delivered a message from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat formally informing him of the Agreement. The message stressed the importance that the PLO attached to United Nations' participation in the implementation of any peace accord betweenitself and Israel.

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For information media--not an official record

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The Security Council this afternoon urged the Government of Mozambique and the Resistência Nacional Moçambicano (RENAMO) to ensure that the momentum towards fully implementing the General Peace Agreement they signed last year be maintained, so that a just and lasting peace in Mozambique could be established. To that end, the Council encouraged the President of Mozambique and the President of RENAMO to continue their direct talks.

By unanimously adopting resolution 863 (1993), the Council encouraged the international community to provide appropriate and prompt assistance for the implementation of the humanitarian programme carried out in the framework of the General Peace Agreement. It also urged the Government and RENAMO to continue to facilitate unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population in need.

Reaffirming the importance it attached to the holding of elections no later than October 1994, the Council strongly urged both parties to agree to and apply the revised timetable for the implementation of all provisions of the Peace Agreement. It appealed to them to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General's Special Representative in that regard, and urged RENAMO and other political parties to join with the Government in quickly agreeing on an election law with provision for an effective national election commission.

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The peace process in Liberia poses a special opportunity for the United Nations, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He said in a report dated 9 September that the proposed United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) would be the first peace-keeping operation the Organization had undertaken in cooperation with a peace-keeping mission already set up by another organization, in this case the Economic Community of West African States Military Observer Group (ECOMOG).

Given the tight timetable set by the Cotonou Peace Agreement between Liberia's conflicting parties, the Secretary-General said that it was crucial that there be clear understanding about the roles of the different groups involved. He expressed confidence, however, that with the good will of all concerned, the relationship would be successful and might even set a precedent for future peace-keeping missions.

The process leading towards elections, scheduled for February/March 1994, was already behind schedule, Mr. Boutros-Ghali noted. Further difficulties and uncertainties were likely to arise and the United Nations would be treading on fresh ground, but he was satisfied that the Organization must supplement the efforts of the Liberian people to establish peace in their country.

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Because of difficulties on the ground related to the application of the cease-fire Agreement signed by the Republic of Georgia and the forces in Abkhazia on 27 July, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, Edouard Brunner, has decided to defer the beginning of peace negotiations in Geneva until later this month, according to a United Nations spokesman.

Last month, the Security Council month established the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) to verify compliance with the Cease-fire Agreement, and asked the Secretary-General to pursue, through his Special Envoy, efforts to facilitate the peace process and political negotiations. UNOMIG will investigate reports of violations and attempt to resolve such incidents with the parties involved, and report to the Secretary-General on the implementation of its mandate.

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Soldiers of the United States Quick Reaction Force were attacked today by members of General Mohammed Farah Aideed's militia after completing a cordon-and-search operation in the vicinity of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) headquarters in Mogadishu, according to a United Nations spokesman. The attackers used small arms, rocket-propelled grenades and indiscriminate mortar fire from several locations, starting from the roof of a hospital.

Three American soldiers were injured in the attack, but their wounds were not life-threatening. The spokesman said that there had been some militia casualties, but no figures were available, and that there may have been some civilian casualties, given the nature of the militia firing.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1477
14 September 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, expresses concern at reports of recent fighting in Croatia; warns of grave threat to Geneva peace process and overall stability in former Yugoslavia; calls on Croatian and Serbian sides to accept cease-fire proposed by UNPROFOR.

+ Security Council expresses concern over reports that Bosnian Croats are detaining Bosnian Muslims in deplorable conditions; calls on Croatian Government to use its influence to resolve situation.

+ Secretary-General recommends that Security Council extend UNAVEM II's mandate for three months in order to continue mediation efforts in Angola; urges Angolan Government and UNITA to resume peace talks, stressing grave humanitarian situation.

+ Secretary-General to meet today with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

+ General Assembly decides to pay for UNFICYP with Members assessed contributions, ending voluntary financing of Operation; authorizes Secretary-General to commit up to $500,000 for initial activities of Tribunal on violations of international humanitarian law in former Yugoslavia.

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The Security Council today expressed profound concern at reports from the United Nations Secretariat of recent fighting in Croatia, in particular at the escalation of the means employed, and the grave threat posed to the Geneva peace process and to overall stability in the former Yugoslavia.

In a statement read out by its President, Adolfo Raul Taylhardat (Venezuela), the Council reaffirmed its respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia, and called on both sides to accept the proposal by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) of an immediate cease-fire. The Council called on the Croatian Government to

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withdraw its armed forces to positions occupied before 9 September, on the basis of that proposal, and called on the Serbian forces to halt all provocative military actions.

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In another Presidential statement read out this afternoon, the Security Council expressed profound concern over reports that Bosnian Croats have been holding Bosnian Muslims in detention camps under deplorable conditions. The Council recalled the international revulsion and condemnation that had accompanied revelations last year of the conditions under which Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats were being held in Bosnian Serb detention camps.

The Council reiterated the principle that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) must be given access to all detainees in Bosnia and Herzegovina wherever they might be held. It called on the Bosnian Croats to give the ICRC information on all camps where prisoners were being held, and to assure the ICRC and other legitimately concerned international bodies of free and unhindered access to detainees. The Council emphasized that inhumane treatment and abuses in detention centres violated international humanitarian law, and reiterated that persons who committed, or ordered the commission of, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions were individually responsible for them.

The Council said that the Croatian Government had a responsibility to use its influence with the Bosnian Croats to secure compliance with its statement, and called on the Government to take immediate steps to that end. The Council also reaffirmed that all parties to the conflict were bound to comply with international humanitarian law and in particular the Geneva Conventions, and reminded them of its willingness to consider appropriate actions if any of them failed to abide scrupulously by their obligations.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) for three months to mid-December to allow it to continue its mediation efforts. In a report on UNAVEM II dated 13 September, the Secretary-General said he was deeply distressed that the fighting in Angola had intensified in recent months and that peace negotiations had not been resumed. He recommended that the Council confirm its readiness to substantially expand the United Nations presence in the country in the event of significant progress in the peace process.

The Secretary-General stressed that an effective and lasting peace could not be achieved through military force, and strongly urged the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to resume negotiations without delay. He drew attention to the grave humanitarian situation in the country, where some 3 million people were

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suffering and more than 1,000 were dying every day because of the war -- the highest fatality rate of any conflict in the world. An immediate cease-fire would permit the distribution of desperately needed humanitarian assistance.

UNAVEM II lacked sufficient international civilian staff to effectively carry out its mandate, especially with the recent intensification of its mediation and good offices activities, according to the report. The number of such staff should be increased from the current 43 to at least 59, the level in April-May.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is expected to meet this evening at Headquarters with Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General yesterday attended the signing of a Peace Agreement between the PLO and the Government of Israel in Washington D.C.

To support the momentum of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and in response to requests from the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships, Mr. Boutros-Ghali last week established a high-level Task Force to focus on the economic and social development of the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the two areas designated for Palestinian self-rule under the Peace Agreement.

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The General Assembly decided this morning that the cost of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) from 16 June 1993 will be treated as an expense of the Organization, to be borne by Member States. This is the first time that the Force, previously the only peace-keeping operation to be financed voluntarily, will be financed by assessed contributions. The Assembly, acting on a series of recommendations by its Fifth Committee with regard to funding peace-keeping operations, appropriated $8,771,000 for UNFICYP for the period from 16 June to 15 December 1993.

The Assembly also decided that the administrative, budgetary and management aspects of the financing of peace-keeping operations should be reviewed urgently to improve their efficiency.

Amongst other decisions taken today, the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to commit up to $500,000 for the initial activities of the International Tribunal for the prosecution of serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the former Yugoslavia.

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Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General meets with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at Headquarters; hails Peace Agreement with Israel as model for settlement of disputes; technical mission to visit PLO officials in Tunis to discuss United Nations assistance in implementing Agreement.

+ UNPROFOR troops prepare to take position between warring Croatian and Serbian forces in Croatia, following agreement in principle on cease-fire; Force Commander calls for maximum restraint by both sides.

+ Libya gives Secretary-General memorandum regarding implementation of Security Council resolutions 731 (1992) and 748 (1992); includes requests for guarantees in event that Lockerbie suspects surrendered voluntarily.

+ Special Representative Jonathan Howe, in New York, attends meetings of donors and Task Force on Somalia; expected to brief Security Council on situation in country tomorrow; UNOSOM II makes steady progress in certifying district councils.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met yesterday evening at Headquarters with Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, and congratulated him on the historic Peace Agreement between the PLO and Israel. The Secretary-General said the Agreement would not only benefit Palestinians and Israelis, but would serve as a model for the international community on the peaceful settlement of conflicts and disputes.

The Secretary-General said the United Nations was ready to assist in the implementation of the Agreement, and would work with organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the donor community through a Special Coordinator. He noted that the Agreement referred to an international presence, and assured Mr. Arafat that the Organization would be ready to provide electoral assistance if needed. A Task Force on development assistance for Gaza and Jericho had been formed last week in response to a request from the PLO and Israel, and a technical mission would be dispatched to Tunis within the next fews weeks for discussions with PLO officials.

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United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops today prepared to interpose themselves between warring Croatian and Serbian forces in Croatia after the two sides reached an agreement in principle on a cease-fire, UNPROFOR Force Commander General Jean Cot said. The agreement called for the withdrawal of the Croatian troops from three villages captured on 9 and 10 September, followed by the deployment of UNPROFOR troops in the affected areas.

General Cot told the generals commanding the two sides that he would take the action necessary to fulfil the cease-fire agreement and called on both parties to show maximum restraint until it was implemented.

The Security Council yesterday expressed its concern about the escalation of military hostilities in Croatia. The Council called on the Croatian Government to withdraw its forces to the positions occupied before 9 September, and called on the Serbian forces to halt all provocative military actions.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali yesterday received Ambassador Abdel Kader El-Obeidi, the envoy of the Government of Libya, who delivered a letter from the Libyan Foreign Minister. Attached to the letter was a memorandum regarding implementation of Security Council resolutions 731 (1992) and 748 (1992), which included a set of questions and requests for guarantees in the event that the two suspects in the Lockerbie case surrendered voluntarily.

The Secretary-General is studying the document and will continue his contacts with the parties concerned, as part of his efforts to seek the cooperation of the Libyan Government in implementation of the Council resolutions, according to a United Nations spokesman.

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The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Jonathan Howe, today attended meetings of donors and the Task Force on Somalia at Headquarters, according to a United Nations spokesman. Admiral Howe will attend a meeting of troop-contributing countries tomorrow, and is expected to brief the Security Council on the situation in Somalia.

The spokesman noted that another district council was formed yesterday in Somalia, and two more were expected to be certified on Friday, bringing the total of functioning councils to 30.

Meanwhile, four mortar rounds were fired into the headquarters compound of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) today, the spokesman said. Five soldiers, three international civilian staff and three Somali staff were slightly injured.

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